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31 AUG 1977

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Acting Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

FROM: George L. Cary  
Legislative Counsel

SUBJECT: General Accounting Office Investigation of the  
National Reconnaissance Program

1. ☐ Action Requested: None; for information only.

2. ☐ Background: Your memorandum, dated 10 August 1977 (copy attached), relating your conversation with Secretary Brown requested that our office coordinate with Defense Legislative Liaison to determine any Congressional support for the GAO investigation of the NRO.

3. ☐ We have found no formal Congressional request for the GAO investigation. This was confirmed by Colonel Stephen R. Harrick, Legislative Liaison, Office of Secretary of Defense. Col. Harrick advises that GAO stopped its investigation in response to Secretary Brown's letter to Mr. Staats (copy attached). The final paragraph of the letter does urge GAO to review the results of the House Appropriations Committee's survey of the NRO when it is completed. Col. Harrick says this was only a polite gesture and confirmed that Defense is still strongly against GAO delving into the NRO.

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4. ☐ Col. Harrick suggested and we agree that there be no further contact with any Congressional committees on this matter at this time.

[Redacted]

George L. Gary

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Attachments: (2)

1. DCI Memorandum for the Record, 10 Aug 1977
2. Secretary Brown's Letter to Mr. Staats, 16 Aug 1977

Distribution:

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OLC: ☐ (30 Aug 1977)

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10 AUG 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with the Secretary of Defense  
9 August 1977

1. The Secretary described his alternate plan for a communications security organization as being developed in the PRM [redacted] [redacted] He envisaged the Government sector continuing to remain under DOD; a new group for the private sector being set up under [redacted]; and the NSC coordinating the whole thing. I gave my general support to this alternative to the one proposed in the last PRC meeting in which [redacted] would be in charge of all COMSEC.

2. The GAO investigation of the NRO. We agreed to study further with our Legislative Counsels whether, if we can ascertain that there in fact is no Congressional support for this investigation and in fact gain assurances that the appropriate committees will support our not having such an investigation, we will be able to turn the GAO off. In view of the absence of many Congressional leaders, it may be awhile before we can make any approaches to them in any event. In the meantime, the OLC should work with the OLC of the Defense Department on this.

Note that the subsidiary consideration here is that the House Appropriations Committee's S&T group has already done a good look at NRO and this should obviate any requirement for another one.

3. We discussed the PRM-24 leak and whether there was any way to trace it.

[redacted]  
STANSFIELD TURNER  
Director

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